

SENATE RESOLUTION 72

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Franklin "Mr. Bill"  
Jarnagin of Rutledge.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of William Franklin Jarnagin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jarnagin was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jarnagin will be remembered as the oldest active Ford automobile dealer in the world, a man who had completely devoted his life to his family and to the Jarnagin Motor Company; and

WHEREAS, he began his illustrious automobile career in 1916, when Mr. Jarnagin and his cousin agreed to sell Ford automobiles in Grainger County; and

WHEREAS, the first car Mr. Bill sold, a 1917 Model T Ford touring car, had to be assembled piece by piece by the dealership; and

WHEREAS, throughout his meritorious career, this outstanding businessman guided the company with sagacity through difficult times, such as the Great Depression, the energy crisis of the 1970s and a devastating fire that destroyed the company's building; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jarnagin proudly defended his nation in World War I, bravely serving in the United States Army; he was the last surviving World War I Veteran in Grainger County; and

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WHEREAS, he has been an active and vital part of numerous organizations, having membership in the Rising Star Lodge Number 44 for 70 years and also serving with distinction as the last charter member of the Rutledge Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, William Jarnagin was an active and devout member of the Rutledge Baptist Church, and he served admirably as a Deacon for several years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jarnagin is preceded in death by his first wife, Jennie Jarnagin, his second wife Mabel Jarnagin; one daughter, Mary Louis Minor; two sons, John William "Duck" Jarnagin and Paul Emerson Jarnagin, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his brother, Bruce Jarnagin of Blaine as well as 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Bill Jarnagin leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of William "Mr. Bill" Jarnagin, remembering with admiration his strong character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of William "Mr. Bill" Jarnagin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.